

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



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GOLOVNIN BAY & ELIM SUBDISTRICTS FINAL COMMERCIAL OPENINGS

Norton Sound Subdistrict 3, the Elim Subdistrict will reopen for one 72-hour period from 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 28 to 6:00 p.m. Friday, August 31. Norton Sound Subdistrict 2, the Golovnin Bay Subdistrict, will reopen to commercial salmon fishing for one 72-hour period from 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 29 to 6:00 p.m. Saturday, September 1. Permit holders in Subdistricts 2 and 3 are limited to 100 fathoms of gillnets and mesh size is restricted to 6 inches or less. The commercial salmon season will close by emergency order at 6:00 p.m. Friday, August 31 in the Elim Subdistrict. In Golovnin Bay Subdistrict, the commercial salmon season will close by emergency order at 6:00 p.m. Saturday, September 1. The Golovnin Bay commercial salmon season is being extended by emergency order for 1 day because a tender vessel cannot reach the fishing grounds until Wednesday, August 29.

Exceptionally high flood levels resulted in the Kwiniuk River tower camp site being flooded and evacuated nearly a month early this season. Similarly, high water knocked out the Niukluk River tower on August 17 and the camp is being evacuated tomorrow. However, the last projected escapement levels based on early to normal run timing models at both projects indicated that silver salmon escapement goals for both index systems would be achieved. Mid-August aerial surveys also showed approximately 3,000 silvers in the lower reach of the Tubutulik River, the other major salmon producing watershed in Elim Subdistrict.

These extended periods will provide some commercial opportunity at the end of the season. Golovin and Elim-based commercial permit holders have had substantially limited commercial opportunity this season. This was due to lagging tower counts of silvers in early August and severe weather and high surf conditions that prevented commercial fishing for silvers by the time escapement projections improved. At this point, the bulk of the silver salmon run is in the lower reaches of the major river drainages in Golovnin Bay and Elim Subdistricts contributing to escapement needs and subsistence and sport fish harvests. Therefore, these extended periods should not jeopardize subsistence uses of silver salmon. The commercial salmon season will conclude in both Subdistricts 2 and 3 at the end of these periods.

Good Luck, Good Fishing, and be safe.